Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 21 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Thursday 22 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 20 Feb 2024 at 10:31

Confidence: High confidence for a change to colder conditions later in the week with some snowfall for the fells, some accumulations likely at higher levels, winter walking conditions for a time. Accompanied by strong winds at times with the potential for some blizzard conditions on the tops. Lower confidence for cloud details on Wednesday accompanying morning rainfall.

Headline for Wednesday 21 Feb 2024: Heavy, persistent rain during the morning. Southerly gales likely at height, becoming drier in the afternoon, some late sunshine possible.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 21 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Dull	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
20%	40%	80%	90%	90%	20%	10%	10%

Forecast for Wednesday 21 Feb 2024

Weather: Dry for a time after midnight but cloud thickening and lowering with rain spreading across the Lake District by the early hours. Rain will be heavy and persistent for much of the morning with the chance of some localised flooding around the area. Smaller watercourses may become difficult to cross. Rain will be accompanied by strong winds, gales higher on the fells making for unpleasant walking conditions. Conditions will improve in the afternoon as rain moves away and some breaks in the clouds appear later in the afternoon. A mainly dry evening is expected.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% improving to 80% later as rain area clears.

Low cloud and visibility: Cloud will thicken and lower early in the morning with layers of scattered or broken cloud above 300m during the morning, visibility will be moderate in rain during the morning. Cloud will perhaps lower further later in the morning during a period of heavier rain when visibility may fall poor for a time. Cloud layers will lift and thin with a marked improvement in visibility during the mid to late afternoon when rain clears.

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Forecast for Wednesday 21 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	18/23 S	36/45 SE	44/56 S	49/64 S	42/54 SW	35/47 W	27/35 SW	30/39 SW	27/36 S
600	19/27 S	32/44 SE	35/49 S	37/52 S	33/46 SW	29/41 W	21/31 SW	24/36 SW	24/35 S
300	9/19 S	11/31 SE	15/38 S	14/41 S	15/37 SW	14/35 W	8/25 SW	10/27 SW	12/28 S
Valley	5/14 SE	9/25 SE	15/36 S	17/42 S	17/36 SW	15/32 W	7/21 SW	11/26 SW	15/28 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-4	2/-5	3/-5	4/-4	5/-2	3/-5	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6
600	3/-2	3/-3	5/-2	5/-1	7/1	5/-1	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3
300	4/0	5/2	6/3	7/4	8/5	8/4	5/2	5/1	5/1
Valley	6/4	7/4	8/5	9/6	10/7	10/6	8/6	7/5	8/4
Freezing Level*	900m	1700m	1800m	2100m	1900m	1100m	900m	1000m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

There will be a significant windchill with the rain and strong winds during the morning in particular. Freezing level will be above all summits during the morning but will lower towards the highest summits in the afternoon with quite a chilly feel by evening time.

Forecast for Thursday 22 Feb 2024

Weather: Brisk winds with showers turning wintry, on the fell tops initially but down to 400m by later in the day. Some showers grouping in the morning to give longer periods of precipitation. Dry and bright outwith showers with a few sunny spells. Showers becoming less frequent during the afternoon and evening.

Maximum wind: Westerly 15-20mph with gusts 30-35mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% improving to 70% in the afternoon, associated with lowering cloud in showers.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud layers above 500m will thicken and lower in showers, particularly around western fell tops. Visibility will turn moderate or poor as showers turn wintery during the morning with navigation becoming difficult especially at higher levels on the fells, potential for some blizzard conditions at times. Visibility will improve in the afternoon as showers become less frequent and cloud will become more scattered with bases lifting to 600 to 700m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 falling to Plus 2 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 2 falling to Minus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1000m falling to 600m during the day.

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Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Tuesday 20 February 2024 Location: Blencathra summit at 11:30. Full report: The vast majority of the Lake District National Park is now clear of snow and ice with just a few isolated & tiny patches to be found around gully exits above 900m on steep north through east aspects. This snow was soft and thawing today and shouldn't present any hazard to walkers. Popular paths including Striding and Swirral Edge's on Helvellyn can be climbed and descended without setting foot on snow. Despite the spring like conditions the summit wind chill was still well below freezing and full winter clothing is still strongly recommended for anyone venturing onto the high fells. This should include full waterproof top & bottoms, plenty of warm layers, hats & gloves & appropriate footwear with plenty of grip plus a map, compass & headtorch. Looking ahead winter is forecast to return on Thursday with freezing temperatures and snow settling down to around 400m. Temperature: plus 4.3 C, Maximum wind speed 33.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 2.8 C, Average wind speed: 21.1 mph

Issued at: 1611 on Tue 20 Feb 2024

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